the end of 1099, one was a Central Bank and one a Central Weaving Society, while 10 were Supervising Unions, leaving a balance of 745 primary societies, of which 601 were agricultural and 144 non-agricultural. There were also six Taluk Unions. 706 of these societies were actually at work in 1099. The number of members of primary societies has increased from 11,664 to 46,297 during the last four years. Calculating the strength of each family at five, it may be presumed that, on the average, one person out of every 17 of the population has come within the influence of the co-operative movement. Two more Supervising Unions have come into existence in the current year. The aggregate working capital of the societies has risen within the last four years from Bh. Rs. 2·50 lakhs to Bh. Rs. 8·33 lakhs, and the paid-up share capital from Bh. Rs. 1·09 lakhs to Bh. Rs. 4·32 lakhs. The number of loans issued by primary societies has increased from 6,082 to 18,793 and their value from Bh. Rs. 2,03,655 to Bh. Rs.5,44,360 within the last four years. The volume of deposits in the Central Bank, Trivandrum, has risen during the same period from Bh. Rs. 5,323 to Bh. Rs. 2,35,115. It is worthy of note that, in spite of unfavourable seasonal and other conditions towards the close of 1099, the arrears of overdues fell from 39·2 per cent. to 35 per cent. in the case of principal, and from 47·6 per cent. to 40 per cent. in the case of interest; but a great deal of leeway has still to be made up in the reduction of outstandings under these heads. Almost the whole of the sum of two lakhs of rupees, placed by the Government at the disposal of the Central Bank, for distribution through co-operative societies as loans to sufferers in flood-affected areas, has already been distributed. At the end of Dhanu, 1100, there were as many as 163 societies exclusively for the depressed classes, of which 85 were for Pulayas and Cheramars, 26 for Vālans, 23 for Arayas, 11 for Parayas and Sâmbavars, 16 for coast Christian fishermen and one each for Vêḷâns and Kānis.

31. Ports. The shipping at the ports is steadily improving, the number of steamers calling at them having risen from 37 to 201 during the last four years. The two steam winches with derricks, sanctioned for the port of Alleppey, have arrived and they will be installed on the pier forthwith. A scheme for the creation of a Landing and Shipping Dues Committee for the port of Alleppey was placed before the local mercantile community. Their remarks have now been received and orders will soon issue. At Trivandrum, work in connection with the extension of the pier is in progress, and land is being levelled for the provision of a larger stacking ground and for the erection of three zinc-roofed sheds for the storage of cargo.

32. Industries. The Department of Industries usually comes in for a certain amount of criticism. It has, however, to be remembered that the department was started only in 1094, *i. e.*, barely six years ago. The first two years were mostly spent in what might be termed reconnoitering; and when the department began to feel its way, its attention was concentrated on certain lines of work, the chief of which were (i) the creation of suitable facilities for research, investigation and demonstration for the four State scholars who were entertained in service in 1097 and 1098 on their return after specialising in leather, textiles, oil, and electrical and mechanical engineering, respectively, (ii) the encouragement of cottage industries and technical and industrial education, and (iii) the discovery of fresh uses for raw materials and of fresh markets for the country's produce.

33. The Leather Expert investigated the resources of Travancore in skins and tanning materials and has published a report which shows that there is scope for the establishment of half-a-dozen up-to-date tanneries in the State for the manufacture of leather, and that, although there may be some difficulty in finding suitable markets for finished leather, half-tanned leather may be readily disposed of in foreign markets. A building with suitable accessories for the demonstration of improved methods of tanning hides and skins with local tan-stuffs has been constructed at Karamanai near Trivandrum, and the Leather Expert has started tanning operations in it and is demonstrating the manufacture of light leather from kips, goat-skins and calf-skins and heavy leather from buffalo-hides. He has also visited all the private tanneries in the State and has suggested measures for remedying the defects in their working.

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